

REMARKS

This amendment is offered in reply to the office action of August 25, 2004. A petition and fee for one month time extension are enclosed.

In paragraph II of the office action, claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) in view of US 6 406 032.

Pending claims 1-14 are believed to distinguish over the cited '032 patent. For example, the examiner argues that a flow conducting element is provided on the cylinder head gasket so as to protrude from the gasket as shown in Fig. 3 of the '032 patent. However, Applicants would point out that Fig. 3 of the '032 patent, which is taken along lines 3-3 of Fig. 1, shows half beads 23a, 23b that reside between opposing surfaces of the engine and cylinder head for providing a water hole sealing device about hole 13.

The half beads 23a, 23b do not constitute a flow conducting element as recited in pending claim 1 that protrudes from the gasket plate at a location thereof adjacent one of at least one first coolant cavity and at least one second coolant cavity when the gasket is installed on the engine and that is joined to at least one coolant passage opening of the gasket plate to provide a flow path that generates a directed flow of coolant at an outlet end of the flow path.

The '032 patent simply does not disclose the combination of features set forth in pending claim 1.

Likewise, the '032 patent does not disclose the features of claim 2 wherein the at least one flow conducting element is designed so as to engage in the first coolant cavity and to form, when the cylinder head gasket is installed, such an impingement and deflector surface for a main flow component that a flow of coolant directed transversely to the gasket plate

USSN 10/647, 363

enters the coolant passage opening associated with the flow conducting element.

The '032 patent also fails to disclose the features of claims 3 and 4 wherein a flow conducting element is designed so as to engage in a second coolant cavity and is provided at the outlet end of the flow path with a nozzle for generating a directed jet of coolant in the second coolant cavity.

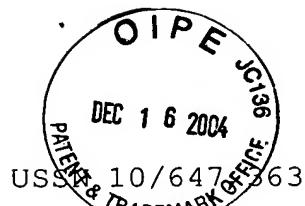
The '032 patent also fails to disclose the features of claims 5 and 6 wherein at least in an inflow area, a flow conducting element is designed like a guide vane (claim 5) or as a tube shape (claim 6).

Similarly, the '032 patent also fails to disclose the features of claim 7 wherein a flow conducting element is manufactured as a separate part and is attached to the gasket plate.

Likewise, the features of claims 8 and 9 are not disclosed in the '032 patent.

The '032 patent is utterly silent with respect to a gasket plate comprising at least one sheet metal layer out of which the edge area of a coolant passage opening is bent and forms at least one of a tube-shaped flow conducting element and a nozzle-shaped flow conducting element as set forth in claims 10 and 11.

Finally, the '032 patent does not disclose the features of claims 12, 13 and 14 wherein a multilayered gasket plate comprises a sheet metal layer consisting of low-alloy steel, and a flow conducting element is formed by a shaped area of the low-alloy steel sheet metal layer.



Applicant believes the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and action to that end is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward J. Timmer".

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service under 37 CFR 1.8 as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 13, 2004.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward J. Timmer".

Edward J. Timmer